

Remarks

I. Election

Applicants elect method claims 17-40 and 53-64 of Examiner's Group II for initial examination in the present application with traverse.

In response to the election of species requirement, applicants designate Species 2A for initial examination. Original claims 17-40 and new claims 66-71 read on the elected species.

II. Remarks

The Office action states that the different claim groups designated by the Examiner "do not relate to a single inventive concept" because "Callahan et al. (2005-0007748) discloses a thermal expansion clamping unit 10 with a base plate 20, a top plate 18, at least one engager 28 positioned between the base plate 20 and the top plate 18 and at least one spring 23 associated with the unit (figures 2 and 3)." Applicants have amended independent apparatus claims 1, 47 and 65 to recite that the engager comprises at least one fluid expansion unit. Claim 41 as originally filed also includes a similar feature. Support for applicants' requested amendment can be found at various locations in the application and in the figures filed with the application, including FIG. 33 and the associated text, as well as claims originally filed with the application including, for example, original claims 6-8. Callahan does not include this feature, and hence the apparatus claims of Examiner's Group I do include a feature linking these claims with the method claims of Examiner's Group II. The basis stated in the Office action for supporting the requirement for restriction no longer applies, and therefore the requirement must be withdrawn. Accordingly, applicants request that all pending claims be examined together in the present application.

The present application is ready for substantive examination, and such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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